

December 14, 2021

Mike Schonherr Director, Strategic Agreements PG&E Power Generation Department 245 Market Street, Mail Code N11E, San Francisco, CA 94105

## Re: <u>Potter Valley Project (Project No. 77)</u>

Dear Mr. Schonherr:

Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and Sonoma County Water Agency respectfully request that PG&E adjust operations of the Potter Valley Project through March 8, 2022 as follows:

When Scott Dam is spilling and above the target storage curves in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license, PG&E will divert such spilled amount into the East Branch Russian River, subject to (i) compliance with all applicable requirements in the FERC license, including the minimum flow requirements for protection of the Eel and East Branch Russian Rivers and (ii) the physical capacity of powerplant bypass system.

The Project powerplant has not been operating since summer of 2021 due to an unsafe condition at the transformer bank. As a result, PG&E is not diverting any flow for power generation. PG&E is instead diverting only that amount, 45 cubic feet per second (cfs), needed to comply with minimum flow requirements for the East Branch Russian and to meet its contractual obligation with the Potter Valley Irrigation District.

Between December 1 through March 8, 2022, we request that PG&E divert flow spilled from Scott Dam up to the capacity of the powerplant bypass system, approximately 140 cfs. Any such diversion must comply with the target storage curves and all other applicable requirements in the FERC license for protection of the Eel River. This request will result in diversion to the Russian River Basin without use of Scott Dam storage. We support your immediate consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to confirm that this request is protective of fishery needs. Mike Schonherr December 14, 2021 Page 2

Subject to that confirmation, this request will help meet critical water needs in the face of extreme drought conditions. Lake Mendocino is at approximately 36% of its storage capacity, which is the lowest level ever seen for this date since dam completion in 1958. Absent the benefit of the requested bypass flows, communities that rely on Lake Mendocino may not have enough water supply to meet their basic health and safety needs this coming year. Additionally, there could be serious impacts to listed fish species in the Russian River.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Grant Davis General Manager Sonoma Water 404 Aviation Boulevard Santa Rosa, CA 95403 (707) 547-1900

Respectfully submitted,

- aut K.F. Pauli

Janet Pauli Chair Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission P.O. Box 1247 Ukiah, CA 95482 (707) 391-7574

Cc: Kim Ognisty, PG&E Legal